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| **From:** | Steinberg, Jonah |
| **To:** | Simmons, Denise |
| **Subject:** | Council Meeting on Israel/HP Boycott |
| **Date:** | Thursday, April 12, 2018 1:48:44 PM |
| **Attachments:** | image002.png |

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Dear City Council Member Simmons,

As Jewish Chaplain at Harvard University, I will welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss the boycott resolution against Hewlett Packard and against Israel proposed for consideration by the Council.

Especially as the proposal of this resolution seems to come from students and the academic quarter, I will be glad to discuss with you the array of constituencies and voices that exist on campus, and why - whatever position one holds regarding the Israeli-Palestinian situation and a desired outcome - tactics of boycott and alienation that single out Israel among all countries of the Middle East are manifestly ineffective, inflammatory, and counter-productive - they make a terrible impression of anti-Semitic prejudice on the part of local government, and are dreadfully damaging with regard to the good will and the atmosphere of the City.

Such proposals and resolutions generally amount to a shouting match among local interest groups; they have only a harmful effect with regard to the conflict in the Middle East itself; and such side-shows completely overlook the positive work toward peace that can be accomplished from places that have strong and active ties with Israel, as the Cambridge and Harvard communities do.

Parents around the country will hear from their children at Harvard what Cambridge does and decides, and the good name of this City stands to suffer or to flourish correspondingly. I will be very glad to think with you about constructive approaches to these important issues.

Respectfully,

**Rabbi Jonah C. Steinberg, Ph.D.**
Executive Director & Harvard Chaplain

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